

REMARKS

The Title has been amended. Claims 1, 19 and 33 have been amended. Claims 1-50 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Objection to the Title:

The Examiner objected to the Title as not descriptive. The Title as been amended per the Examiner's request. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Section 102(b) Rejection:

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-17, 19-21, 23-25, 27-31, 33-35 and 37-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schettler et al. (U.S. Patent 5,872,932) (hereinafter "Schettler"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In regard to claim 1, Schettler does not teach receiving a request to online fabric devices according to a specified one of said plurality of configuration repositories; accessing the specified configuration repository; and requesting a configuration operation to online, for the host system, one or more of the fabric devices identified in the specified configuration repository; wherein to online one or more of the fabric devices comprises: creating, for each fabric device to be onlined, a reference within the host system's operating system for processes in the host system to communicate with the fabric device. In contrast, Schettler teaches constructing a map for use in displaying a network topology on a display (Schettler -- col. 6, lines 24-33). The display of how devices are topologically connected in a network in Schettler (see Fig. 2 in Schettler) has absolutely nothing to do with a configuration operation to online one or more fabric devices for a host system. Schettler's teachings pertain only to the mapping and display of a network

topology. Schettler's teachings clearly do not pertain to onlining fabric devices and creating, for each fabric device to be onlined, a reference within the host system's operating system for processes in the host system to communicate with the fabric device. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Schettler. Similar remarks apply in regard to independent claims 19 and 33.

Section 103(a) Rejections:

The Office Action rejected claims 4, 22 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schettler in view of Tonelli et al. (U.S. Patent 6,229,540) (hereinafter "Tonelli"), claims 18, 32 and 50 as being unpatentable over Schettler in view of Anderson (U.S. Patent 5,974,546), and claim 26 as being unpatentable over Schettler in view of Williams et al. (U.S. Patent 6,344,862) (hereinafter "Williams"). Tonelli, Anderson and Williams do not contain any teachings that would overcome the deficiencies of Schettler noted above in regard to the independent claims. Therefore, Applicant traverses these rejections for at least the reasons given above in regard to Schettler.

Furthermore, in regard to the rejections under both sections 102(b) & 103(a), Applicant also asserts that the rejection of numerous ones of the dependent claims is further unsupported by the teachings of the cited art. However, since the rejection of the independent claims has been shown to be improper, a further discussion of the rejection of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-68400/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- Return Receipt Postcard
- Petition for Extension of Time
- Notice of Change of Address
- Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of \$ for fees ().
- Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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